Profession of Faith

WE BELIEVE

the Episcopal Church to belong to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, and desire its visible and corporate reunion with the Great Orthodox Churches of the East, the Old Catholic and other non-Roman Catholic Churches of the world; "the Latin Church of the West" as well as with other "rightly believing" Christians who in Prayer Book language, not only confess God's Holy Name, but "agree in the truth".

WE BELIEVE

the Catholic Faith as revealed by God, defined in the Creed of Nicaea and other credal formularies of the Church, contained in Holy Scripture and interpreted by the tradition of the Church.

WE BELIEVE

that the essential doctrines of the Faith are contained in the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER and in "the teachings of the ancient Fathers, and Councils of the Church."

WE BELIEVE

that Baptism is the necessary and normal initiation into the Body of Christ, and that Confirmation is the completion and sealing of Baptism by the action of the Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE

that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Holy Mystery in which Christ feeds and sustains His Church, and that through this sacrament we participate in the Sacrifice of His death, and share in His glorified life.

WE BELIEVE

that the Priesthood of the Church is one with the Eternal Priesthood of JESUS CHRIST, the Great High Priest, yet there is an essential difference of character and function between the priesthood of the laity and that of its Ministers:

... and that a priest is principally one who has received the Church's authority through a Bishop to teach, to baptize, to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, to absolve the faithful from sin and to bless.

... Furthermore, that the present Ordinal of the Episcopal Church contains a sufficient form of declaration and intention "for the making, ordaining and consecrating of Bishops, Priests and Deacons" of the Catholic Church.

WE BELIEVE

that the "absolution and remission of sins" pronounced to individual penitents in the Sacrament of Penance is an essential part of the priestly ministry.

WE BELIEVE

that Holy Matrimony is a sacrament by which God sanctifies the contract of a Christian marriage and gives husband and wife the grace necessary for the married state, and that in marriage "Those whom God hath joined together" no man can "put asunder."

WE BELIEVE

that Unction of the Sick is a normal part of the Church's Ministry to the sick and dying, and must be recognized as having a rightful place in the Church's sacramental ministry.

WE BELIEVE

that Blessed Mary is ever "a pure Virgin" and that her place in the Christian economy of redemption cannot be ignored or treated as an "optional extra."

WE BELIEVE

that the Church's doctrine with regard to both the Church Expectant and the Church Triumphant, including prayer for the faithful departed, and devotion to the Saints, must have place in any re-union schemes.

Being a Confirmed Communicant of the Episcopal Church, and over/under eighteen years of age, I hereby AFFIRM MY BELIEF as stated in the above Profession of Faith.

Signed ..... Date / /1966

(Name)

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip Code .....

A member of ..... Church

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